

25th May 2023,

Dear Parent/Carer

We are now taking bookings for instrumental and vocal lessons for 2023/24. Lessons are provided by the Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT), costs for the lessons and subsidy information can be found in the music tuition document starting on page 2 of this letter.

If you require instrumental/vocal lessons for 2023/24 please complete the instrumental tuition agreement form by [clicking here](#)

By completing this form you are consenting to pay for lessons for the entire academic year as outlined and explained in the music tuition document.

This form **needs to be accompanied by a full deposit of £50** in order to secure the lesson in September. The £50 deposit will automatically be activated on your ParentPay account if you had lessons during 2022/23 or will be added to your account if you are new to lessons this year. If you are not continuing with lessons please do not pay the deposit that appears.

If for any reason the payment option is not on your ParentPay account (after logging in) please contact our finance department via email at finance@nsg.northants.sch.uk or by phoning 01604 679540.

You can book 2 instrumental / vocal lessons, to do this please complete the form for a second time. On realising you have booked a second lesson we will add a second deposit of £50 onto your parentpay account **Both** of which will need to be paid to secure the lessons.

Assistance is available for families who have exceptional financial difficulties. Please contact the finance department on the above email to request a 'Financial Assistance' form.

This form will be closed on Friday 30th June 2023. Please ensure it is completed before this deadline to help us to guarantee music lessons for your child in September.

Kind regards



Rob Reid
Head of music

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

MUSIC TUITION DOCUMENT 2023 – 2024

Introduction

The Governors and staff of NSG are committed to ensuring that all students should have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument or use their voice. We believe that this tuition develops the following important skills in the learner:

- Concentration
- Listening skills
- Perseverance
- Organisation and personal management
- Social skills
- Cultural experience and understanding
- Insight into a range of cultures
- Preparation for the world of employment

We believe that the opportunity to learn an instrument should not be related to tests of musical ability or capability. We wish the access to be made as widely available to students as possible and we support the Government's 'Wider Opportunities' agenda and aim to ensure this offer is available to all our students. The school assigns considerable resources to Music tuition and this document outlines the current approach of ensuring that our philosophy is put into practice. There is an expectation that all students having music lessons at NSG access an appropriate extra curricular group, to enhance their musical understanding and ensemble skills.

Access

Although we do not have limitless resources we will seek to encourage students, regardless of ability, ethnicity and socio economic background, to consider learning to play a wide range of instruments and styles to match their interests and aspirations. We will seek to support those students for whom financial assistance is required and who otherwise would not be able to learn an instrument.

The Organisation of Lessons

- Students who are beginners, achieved Grade 1 or a working towards Grade 2 will be taught in groups of 2 for 20 minutes, unless they play piano/keyboard in which case they will receive a 15 minute individual lesson.
- Students who have achieved Grade 2 so are working on Grade 3, 4 or 5 or who are will be taught individually for 20 minutes.
- Students who have achieved Grade 5 so are working at Grade 6 or above will be taught individually for 30 minutes, and these lessons are most likely to be timetabled before or after school, at lunchtime or in P16 study periods (but this cannot be guaranteed).

Lessons



Lessons are available in:

- Strings: Cello, double bass, viola, violin
- Woodwind: Bassoon, clarinet, flute, oboe, recorder, saxophone
- Brass: Baritone, euphonium, cornet/trumpet, French/tenor horn, trombone, tuba
- Keyboard: Piano, electric keyboard
- Percussion: Concert percussion, drum kit
- Guitar: Acoustic/classical guitar, bass guitar, electric guitar, ukulele
- Vocal: Classical vocal, contemporary vocal

If you require tuition on an instrument not on this list please let us know and, if possible, we will try to find an appropriate teacher or put you in touch with one.

Instrumental/vocal lessons are operated over a minimum of thirty weeks (maximum of 33). Lessons may be scheduled before and after school, as well as during the school day. Every effort is made to timetable lessons so that students will not miss the same subject lesson each week, therefore music lesson times will change weekly.

Students must check their copy of the timetable or the Music Notice Board weekly for lesson times and arrive five minutes before each lesson. Students must make sure that they catch up on any subject work they have missed.

If a student misses a lesson due to illness there will be no refund. If a teacher misses a lesson she/he will make up the lesson at the next available opportunity. 'Catch-up' weeks are interspersed throughout the year to make this possible.

It is an expectation that students sit for Associated Board exams or equivalent, as and when the peripatetic teachers feel they have reached an appropriate standard. We celebrate success in these exams and participation in our extra curricular programme in our annual CIVAs awards evening.

Charging

The policy for charging for instrumental tuition takes account of the Governor's policy on charging for educational activities, local and national advice. See grid below for charges.

Payments should be made through your ParentPay account. A deposit of £50.00 **per booked instrument/vocal lesson** is required to secure lessons. In the case of withdrawal from lessons parents will be charged for all lessons up to the point of cancellation, **plus 5 weeks** worth of lessons, an amount dictated by NMPAT for the cancellation of lessons with them.



Charging exceptions

- There is a 50% reduction in the cost of a 30 minute instrumental or vocal lesson on first instrument for Post 16 students studying A level Music. Normal charges apply for a second instrument.
- Assistance is available for families who have exceptional financial difficulties. If you wish to apply for assistance please contact the Business Manager for a 'Request for Financial Assistance' form

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION TARIFF 2023 – 2024	Cost per year per Instrument (33 lessons)	Subsidy
Piano and Keyboard lessons: Beginners – passed Grade 1, or working towards Grade 2	15 minute lesson £345	
Passed Grade 2, working towards Grade 3, 4 and 5	20 minute lesson £455	
Passed Grade 5, working towards Grade 6,7 or 8.	30 minute lesson £678	
Other instruments: Beginners – passed Grade 1, or working towards Grade 2	Group 20 minute lesson £228	£25
Passed Grade 2, working towards Grade 3, 4 or 5	Individual 20 minute lesson £456	£50
Passed Grade 5, working towards Grade 6,7 or 8.	Individual 30 minute lesson £699	£60
A level music students receive 50% reduction in the cost on their first instrument	30 minute lesson £380	£380

NMPAT hourly rate is £46.00 per hour 2023/24

Attendance

All students who receive tuition in school are expected to make reasonable progress and are expected to attend every lesson. To improve communication between school and home, we send home an email to advise parents of absences. We ask parents to respond as fully as possible.

Progress

Average progress is usually about one grade per year. Some students may make greater progress than others. Some students will make slower progress but will clearly be trying hard. To make progress students will need to practice for a reasonable amount of time at home, to follow appropriate schemes of work and respond to targets set by the teacher.

Instrumental teachers will write an annual progress report for parents which will be sent out towards the end of the school year. They will also invite parents to attend an annual parents' evening to discuss progress and concerns.



Instruments

Students will be supplied, where possible, with an instrument at no extra cost by the Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust/NSG. However, students who play piano, keyboard, guitar or drums are expected to have their own instrument. The safe-keeping of instruments is the responsibility of the student to whom they are allocated. It is a requirement of the loan that they are covered by an all risks house insurance policy. The same is requested if students own their own instrument.

All music and items such as strings, valve oil, reeds and other accessories will need to be purchased by the family.

Students are encouraged to purchase their own instruments. The school operates the Assisted Purchase scheme that allows parents to purchase instruments without incurring VAT. Details of the scheme are available from the NSG Finance Office.

Advice on instrumental purchase is available from the relevant instrumental teacher and class music teacher.

All instruments must be clearly labeled with the student's name and tutor group. Small instruments must be locked in lockers when not in use. Instruments which are left in school overnight should be locked in the instrument store.

Contribution to out-of-class activities

The school runs a wide range of extra musical activities at no extra cost. When applying for lessons, parents will be asked to agree to their daughter/son joining and regularly attending at least one extra-curricular (lunchtime or after school) musical activity every week per instrument/voice lesson. Students will be invited to join an ensemble which is relevant to their instrument and grade achieved ie, Wind Band, Concert Band, String Band, String Orchestra, a Guitar Ensemble or a Vocal Ensemble. Attendance is expected at all rehearsals, concerts and any other special events that are organised from time to time. In addition, they may also join one of the many other ensembles on offer if they wish to do so. If a student is unwilling to be part of and support our extra-curricular programme where relevant, we reserve the right to not offer lessons at NSG in subsequent years and charge you the school subsidy.

Our annual Music Awards evening, the CIVAs, is held during the first week in May for students who have made exceptional progress in lessons and in extra curricular activities. Some students will be asked to perform at this event. All students receiving instrumental lessons should endeavor to attend this event, even if they are not receiving an award.

The music department will be happy to give advice on a wide range of local and national performance and other musical activities.



Teachers

The school and Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust will ensure that all peripatetic teachers are suitably qualified and have appropriate DBS clearance.

The school will ensure that all instrumental teachers are aware of the most recent child protection policy and e-safety policy. Any complaint by a student against a member of the instrumental teaching staff must be reported immediately to the Headteacher.

